

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice and replace them with new claims 13-24 as follows:

Claims 1-12 **CANCELLED**.

13. **(NEW)** An oil separator for the separation of oil from the crankcase ventilation gas of a combustion engine, comprising:

- a housing with a separation element arranged therein,
- an inlet for gas to be cleaned,
- an outlet for cleaned gas, and an outlet for separated oil,
- an uncleaned-gas region provided in said housing adjacent to the inlet, and containing an oil sink arranged to receive coarse-particle oil that is carried along with an inflowing gas flow,
- a coarse-particle-oil cyclone provided in said housing and having an inflow opening positioned in the oil sink at the same vertical level as the oil sink, and
- the separation element comprising an inflow opening that is spatially positioned at a vertical level above the inflow opening of the coarse-particle-oil cyclone.

14. **(NEW)** An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein the coarse-particle-oil cyclone and the separation element are configured such that a first partial flow of the crankcase ventilation gas is directed through the coarse-particle-oil cyclone and a larger remaining second partial flow of the crankcase ventilation gas is directed through the separation element.

15. ~~(NEW)~~ An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein the uncleaned-gas region of the housing is provided with a structure to cause an acceleration flow of the gas to be cleaned.

16. ~~(NEW)~~ An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein the coarse-particle-oil cyclone comprises a gas outflow opening that is formed by an inner pipe projecting into the coarse-particle-oil cyclone from above, said inner pipe being connected to the outlet for cleaned gas.

17. ~~(NEW)~~ An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein the coarse-particle-oil cyclone is closed at its top and the oil outflow opening at the bottom side of the coarse-particle-oil cyclone also forms a gas outflow opening, for the coarse-particle-oil cyclone, wherein this gas outflow opening is connected both to the outlet for separated oil and to the outlet for cleaned gas.

18. ~~(NEW)~~ An oil separator according to claim 17, wherein the connection between the combined oil and gas outflow opening and the outlet for cleaned gas is formed by an internal oil return line that connects an outlet-side cleaned-gas region of the housing to an oil outlet region of the housing.

19. ~~(NEW)~~ An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein the separation element is formed by one or more cyclones.

20. ~~(NEW)~~ An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein the separation element is formed by one or more coalescers.

21. (NEW) An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein a pressure limiting valve is integrated in the housing between the uncleaned-gas region and a cleaned-gas region.

22. (NEW) An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein a pressure limiting valve is integrated in the housing between the uncleaned-gas region and a cleaned-gas region.

23. (NEW) An oil separator according to claim 21, wherein a pressure limiting valve is integrated in the housing between the uncleaned-gas region and a cleaned gas region, the pressure limiting valve being formed as a part of the insert.

24. (NEW) An oil separator according to claim 13, wherein a vacuum pressure regulating valve is integrated in a cleaned-gas region of the housing.